

or imaginary from any of our fellow creatures even if they had been less good natured than was "Grandpapa," so after a little consultation, we relinquished our guide. . . On returning, we were glad of the cool shelter of the large dining-room at the Bär, & when refreshed took the landlord's bulky carriage to Luterachen. —

We had a magnificent ride, & arrived in time for the steamer to the Giesbach, with a little surplus for a fracas with the porteur, at ~~whose~~ ^{the landlord's} instigation was bent on making an overcharge. The afternoon was a lovely one,

& we much enjoyed our quiet sail on the lake.

We landed at the stage, close to the outlet of the Giesbach fall. — These are a succession of cascades, leaping, step by step, from the top of a very high mountain. Although inferior in height to some others, it surpasses them in beauty & in the adjunct of a rich forest of fir, thro' which it breaks its way. The Giesbach is one of the prettiest of falls, about 500 feet in height, there is nothing wild about it, indeed, with its

immediate surroundings of green
surfy Knolls, and dark woods, - it
had the effect of a park scene.

It is possible to pass behind
the third fall, by means of a gallery,
constructed beneath the shelving
rock, from which it casts itself down,
so as to get the effect of the land-
scape, at short the curtain of water.

Each leap is of equal size,
& force to Selwith, or Colwith in
Westmorland. -

Our application for beds at the
large, & fashionable hotel was in-
effectual, - the hundred, & fifty it
contained, - being all engaged. But
an offer was made, that our party
might occupy a chalet, that stood
on the grounds, without fear of



The Giesbach.

intrusion from other travellers. This arrangement fell in so charmingly with our ideas of novelty, + romance, - that we immediately appropriated - rooms - through whose lattices twined the pendants of the vine + over whose carved balcony - hung the tendrils of the Virginian creeper. It was a positive Swiss Elysium, that evening at the Giesbach, + we were quite willing to give ourselves up to the delusion, for those few hours, - that we were really the possessors of chalet - grounds, + waterfall. He even had our own little Gretchen who waited modestly upon us, + served our tea in the central wooden square, into which all the rooms of the chalet opened, + from which you could step



HÔTEL DU GIESBACH.

step on to a balcony, wide enough to accommodate chairs, & tables, where you could obtain a full view of the waterfall. But even the novelty of the chalet could not induce us to stay within, beyond the Touchong regretment, so we descended our balcony stair to explore the grounds, & to pass, & repass the bridges that intersect each leap of water. We -

threaded the shades of fir, ever, & anon mounting
some grassy bank, to catch a glimpse of
Ringenberg's castled promontory, running
its dark cape across the shimmering lake
that like a sheet of glass, reflected the golden
rays of the setting sun. The owner of the
Hotel, & grounds, & performing Waterfall, de-
sires by night as well as by day to make gain
of his *prima donna*. - At 10 P.M. she is ar-
ranged in full evening costume, to pour her
charms at the feet of her numerous admirers.
Yes, at 10 of the Bell rang to summon the company
to the region of the Fall. At a signal of a sky-
rocket, each of the six leaps, from being shaded in
the dusk, were instantaneously illuminated by
coloured lights. The lower fall poured rubies, the
one above emeralds, above that amethysts, then
the Tapes mounted to the next story, & lastly crys-
tals showered their gems in succession. The colors
were then reversed, as they lighted the beautiful scene.
The colored lamps, placed behind the trees, threw out
their dark foliage, & bridges in effective contrast to

The brilliance of the Halls. The effect was magical
& brought to the imagination, visions in "the Arabian
Nights" of the enchantments of dark caves, that on the
incantations of the magician split open, & for an
instant displayed a mine of gems, - then a touch of
the wand, - the cave closed, & all was darker dark
than before. So our ch^{at}let we adjourned,
& there sat till the remembrance of early rising dis-
persed us to our amusing rooms. It seemed
laughably like sleeping in a tea-chest. You
had wood as your zenith - wood for your nadir,
& on North, South, East, & West. wood en-
compassed you. -

Tuesday night, July 7th.